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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Lebanon

REPORT NO. [redacted]

SUBJECT Proposed Change in Form of Lebanon Government

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DATE DISTR. 8 MAR 54

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1. Camille Chamoun, the president of Lebanon, has drawn up a reform program, for the working out of which he proposes to introduce authoritarian government by legal means.
2. The following steps are planned: a. Replacement of the Yafi government by a coalition. b. Use of influence on parliament with the object of obtaining from it a grant of unlimited powers for the new government. c. Dismissal or adjournment of parliament. d. Thereafter, government by decrees for which no parliamentary approval will be required.
3. Chamoun probably will have attained his goal by April or May 1954.
4. The President is guided by the following reasons: a. The parliamentary system in practice, through the influence of corrupt elements, has hindered the creation of a stable government and a constructive policy. b. Stabilization of the internal political situation is the more necessary because the president plans an extended state visit to South America in the spring. c. Close association with Shishakly has not been without influence on Chamoun's ideas about the proper methods of government.

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